

CLAIMS

1. A method for controlling reception of messages in an e-mail network, each message is associated with a message sender, comprising:

providing an e-mail relay, the e-mail relay interposed along a message communication path associated with a public network and an e-mail server of the e-mail network;

the e-mail relay receiving a message intended for a recipient associated with the e-mail network;

the e-mail relay extracting signature data from the message;

the e-mail relay validating the signature data; and

the e-mail relay executing at least one predetermined action in response to determining that the signature data is valid.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the e-mail relay further classifies the signature data.

3. The method of Claim 1, wherein the e-mail relay validates the signature data by employing a validation authority.

4. The method of Claim 1, wherein said at least one predetermined action comprises allowing the message to proceed to at least one recipient.